

**Your
Seattle
Fire Department**

Claude Harris, Chief
Charles Royer, Mayor



October 31, 1988

Ms. Shirley Axelrod
Seattle City Light
Room 922

Dear Ms. Axelrod:

This is in response to your telephone request for Ordinance regulations of the Fire Code concerning underground tanks in the City of Seattle.

The Seattle Fire Department issues permits and supervises the removal of abandoned underground tanks. Enclosed you will find copies of the Seattle Uniform Fire Code regulation and Seattle Fire Department Inspection guideline 80.25. Also included are the conditions for underground storage tank removal/abandonment.

I hope this information is helpful and if you have any further questions, please contact Inspector Don Brenneman at 386-1450.

Very truly yours,

CLAUDE HARRIS, CHIEF
Seattle Fire Department

Chief B. L. Hansen
Fire Marshal

BLH:DB:dp

Enclosure

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Abandonment and Status of Tanks

Sec. 79.113. (a) Permits. For permits to remove, abandon, place temporarily out of service or otherwise dispose of any flammable or combustible liquid tank, see Section 4-101.

79.113-79.201

UNIFORM FIRE CODE

(b) **Tanks Temporarily Out of Service.** Tanks temporarily out of service shall have the fill line, gage opening and pump connection secured against tampering. Vent lines shall remain open and be maintained in accordance with the requirements of this article for vent lines.

(c) **Tanks Out of Service 90 Days.** Any tank not used for a period of 90 days shall be properly safeguarded or removed in a manner approved by the chief.

Tanks which are to be placed back in service shall be tested in a manner approved by the chief.

(d) **Aboveground Tanks Out of Service One Year.** Any aboveground tank which has been abandoned for a period of one year shall be removed from the property in a manner approved by the chief.

(e) **Underground Tanks Out of Service One Year.** Any underground tank which has been abandoned for a period of one year shall be either removed from the ground and the hole properly filled or such tank may be abandoned in place and safeguarded in a manner and with material approved by the chief.

(f) **Reinstallation of Tanks.** Tanks which are to be reinstalled for flammable or combustible liquid service shall comply with all of the provisions of this article. See Division VI of this article.

Fire Protection

Sec. 79.114. Fire protection for the storage, transportation and dispensing of flammable liquids shall be in accordance with Article 10 except as otherwise provided in this article.

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INSPECTION GUIDELINE

No. 80.25SUBJECT: **ABANDONMENT OF TANKS**

FIRE CODE REFERENCE: Section 79.221

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE: NFPA Standard 30

I. **PERMITS:**

A permit (Code 799) is required to remove, abandon, place temporarily out of service or otherwise dispose of any flammable or combustible liquid tank.

II. **CODE:**

The installation of aboveground and underground flammable or combustible liquid tanks is done under permit from the Department of Construction and Land Use.

The removal, placing temporarily out of service, abandonment or other such disposition of flammable or combustible liquid tanks is done under permit from the Seattle Fire Department.

DEFINITIONS:

1. **REMOVAL OF TANKS** means to physically remove a tank from the location in which it was installed under permit from the Department of Construction and Land Use.
2. To place **TEMPORARILY OUT OF SERVICE** means to discontinue the use of the tank for a period not less than 90 days and not more than one (1) year.
3. **ABANDONMENT** of tanks means to discontinue the use for a period longer than one year.

C. **GUIDELINES -- FMO:**

1. Any flammable or combustible liquid tank, larger than 110 gallons and not used for a period less than one (1) year shall be properly safeguarded.
 - a. Fill lines, gauge openings and pump connections must be secured against tampering.
 - b. Vent lines shall remain open and be maintained in accordance with the requirements of UFC Article 79, (See "vent lines").

Any flammable or combustible liquids tank larger than 110 gallons, which has been abandoned for a period of one (1) year shall be removed from the property. Procedures for removal are as follows:

- a. Obtain Fire Department permit. (Code 799)
- b. FMO inspector to be at tank removal site prior to removal.
- c. Tank to be completely empty of all flammable or combustible liquids prior to removal.
- d. To ensure that the tank atmosphere has been inerted, one (1) pound of dry ice (Carbon dioxide) per 50 gallon capacity of the tank must be inserted in the tank. (A 1000 gallon tank would require 20 pounds of dry ice).
 - (1) Wait a minimum of 60 minutes for dry ice to vaporize. Vapors should begin to show at the fill pipe at this time.
 - (2) Test with a Carbon dioxide tester. When a reading of 80% CO₂ is achieved, tank removal may begin.
 - (3) CO₂ fire extinguishers are not to be used for inerting purposes.
- e. Tanks with baffles to prevent movement of liquid must be certified gas free by a Marine Chemist or Petroleum Industry Safety Engineer regularly engaged in that business prior to removal.
- f. Tanks larger than 10,000 gallons must be certified gas free by a Marine Chemist or a Petroleum Industry Safety Engineer.
- g. Written certification that the tank is gas free must be provided by the Marine Chemist or Petroleum Safety Engineer.
- h. Any flammable or combustible liquid tank which has been abandoned for a period of one (1) year shall be removed from the ground and the hole properly filled. If circumstances warrant, however, such tank may be abandoned in place and safeguarded in a manner and with material approved by the Chief.
 - a. Slurried cement has been an accepted material for filling the tank.
- c. The entire tank must be filled.

C. 3. d. Access of the tank is the key issue in determining whether a tank can be abandoned in place. Whenever possible, tanks will always be removed from the ground.

D. **GUIDELINES -- OPERATIONS:**

Same as FMO.

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